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PAGE 14

Whistleblower has his say



Dalhousie dentistry student Ryan Millet heads into a disciplinary hearing at the school on Tuesday evening. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Dalhousie scandal.
Mystery remains to what happened at disciplinary hearing for dentistry student



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After more than four hours of a disciplinary hearing for the Dalhousie University dentistry student who says he blew the whistle on misogynistic comments on a Facebook group, neither he nor his lawyer commented on the outcome as they left through a side door Tuesday evening.

Ryan Millet, a fourth-year dentistry student and one of the 13 members of the Facebook group, stood behind lawyer Bruce MacIntosh as he spoke with reporters before the pair went into the hearing just before 5 p.m.

Millet's lawyer said his

client was set to argue for the return of his clinical privileges, which all group members have lost this semester, in the aftermath since he encouraged other members of the Facebook group to remove the comments and showed the posts to a female classmate before faculty was notified.

MacIntosh, who says he attended Dalhousie law school, said the recent closed-door Dalhousie senate meetings where they endorsed an independent task force to look into the Facebook group members do not show procedural fairness.

"Have you ever heard a judge who hasn't tried or convicted a person yet, say, 'We are all committed to significant consequences?'" MacIntosh asked, quoting a recent statement by Dalhousie University president Richard Florizone.

"What we learned in that law school up the road is called due process — it's innocence until you're proven guilty."

MacIntosh said "this will

Staying quiet

Ryan Millet was expected to speak with the media at 9 a.m. Wednesday, but his lawyer reportedly issued a statement late Tuesday night saying he would no longer be doing so.

go as far as it has to go," until Millet's suspension is lifted and his reputation cleared, since various dentistry governing bodies across Canada have said the fact he's identified with the Facebook group means they would investigate him.

"If he's cleared ... then we'll look for the next step to make sure that he can go on and be the good dentist that I know he wants to be," he said.

The meeting ended around 9:30 p.m., with Millet and MacIntosh avoiding reporters by going out a side entrance. No one from Dalhousie University spoke either.



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Police seek woman after string of thefts from cars

Crime. Images released of shopper who is linked to use of stolen credit card



RUTH DAVENPORT
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Halifax Regional Police are alerting drivers to a spike in thefts from cars at local parks, as they seek information about a suspect in one such theft.

According to a release, a woman called police late last November to report her car had been broken into while parked at Frog Pond on Purcells Cove Road.

The woman said she had gone for a walk and, when she returned, she found the car window smashed and her purse missing.

Police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages said Tuesday that the victim's credit card was used almost immediately.

"In this case, this lady used that card several times in that

Quoted

"The main thing is, if you're going to park somewhere, make sure there's nothing left in your car."

Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages

area for a couple hundred dollars," he said. "It's disturbing."

Images released by police Tuesday show a woman allegedly using the stolen credit card at the Esso Gas Station on Chebucto Road. She's described only as a white woman in her 20s, heavy-set, with dark hair.

Anyone with information on the woman's identity is asked to contact police or Crime Stoppers.

Bourdages said there's been an increase recently in thefts from motor vehicles at municipal and provincial parks. More than 12 such incidents have been reported in the last two months.



A collage of the suspect police were looking for on Tuesday. Police are alerting drivers to a spike in thefts from cars at local parks, as they seek information about a suspect in one such theft. HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE/HANDOUT

"Often windows are being smashed, and it's mostly when there's an attractive item in plain sight," he said. "If you're going to leave that

type of stuff in your car, make sure it's in your trunk before you get there."

Bourdages said patrols have been stepped up in cer-

tain parks at certain times of day, based on the pattern of the recent break-ins, but so far there have been no arrests.

Collision

Man injured after being hit by truck

Police in Halifax are investigating a collision between a pedestrian and a pick-up truck with the city's water commission.

Halifax Regional Police say a man in his 30s got off a Halifax Transit bus and went to cross the road in front of

the bus when he was hit by a Halifax Water truck travelling in the same direction.

Police say the accident happened at the intersection of Cowie Hill Drive and Limerick Road around 1:45 p.m. Tuesday.

The man was taken to hospital by paramedics with undetermined injuries.

No charges have been laid as police investigate.

METRO

New rules

Motorists will soon pay more if using phone while driving

The Nova Scotia government is reminding motorists that it will soon increase fines for drivers who are caught using hand-held electronic devices behind the wheel, while also taking demerit points from

their licences.

Transportation Minister Geoff MacLellan says distracted driving is as serious as impaired driving and the bigger fines and loss of demerit points is aimed at influencing the behaviour of drivers.

The new penalties take effect Feb. 1, with exceptions for people who use their cellphones to report an emergency.

A conviction for using a

hand-held device while driving will mean the loss of four demerit points from a driver's licence.

Meanwhile, the fine for a first offence jumps from \$176.45 to \$233.95.

The fine for a second offence increases from \$233.95 to \$348.95, and a third offence from \$348.95 to \$578.95.

The government first announced the new penalties last year. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Suspicious-package scare hits quiet neighbourhood

Evacuation. Halifax police tight-lipped about investigation in Cole Harbour



STEPHANIE TAYLOR
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Residents in one Cole Harbour neighbourhood were in shock Tuesday, watching as two of their streets were blocked and evacuated by RCMP officers following the discovery of a suspicious package.

Ken Ford lives several houses down the street from 54 Lakeridge Cres., and noticed that two police cars were parked in front of the home while he was taking out the trash on Tuesday morning.

"I thought, 'Hope for the best' and didn't know what was going on," he told reporters in the afternoon.

Ford had been informed by an officer that a suspicious package had been discovered and that homes within a 100-metre radius needed to be evacuated.

"They said (to be) prepared to stay out overnight," Ford explained, standing near police tape down the block from where members of the explosive decontamination unit and hazardous materials unit were preparing to retrieve

Dyde Road

The RCMP announced on Tuesday evening that they had located more hazardous chemicals at a cottage on Dyde Road in Grand Desert and evacuated five homes in the area overnight.

the package.

RCMP spokesman Cpl. Greg Church told reporters that a concerned citizen had called police to report a suspicious package on Monday, shortly after 9 p.m. Officers arrived on the scene that evening and guarded it overnight until specialized units showed up Tuesday morning.

Church wouldn't confirm the specific location of the package or whether someone lived in the home, saying only that investigators received further information that prompted officers to conduct a search on a second home on Parkedge Crescent in Cole Harbour, and Dyke Road in Grande Desert.

Officers believe the three scenes are connected, Church said.

He added no suspects had been taken into custody, but police were interested in speaking to several individuals.

RCMP were working with members of Halifax fire and



Members of the RCMP explosive decontamination unit arrive at Lakeridge Crescent in Cole Harbour on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

regional police throughout the afternoon to remove the package, which Church confirmed around 4 p.m. contained hazardous chemicals but not explosives.

"The problem with the situation is we don't know what chemical it is, so we're treating it as the worst-case scenario," he said.

Church added that evacuation was a recommendation made by members of the explosives unit earlier in the day.

Around 5 p.m., RCMP reported the evacuation ban had been lifted and residents could return to their

homes.

This was also the time Church estimated the package was to be removed.

A few of the residents who live on Lakeridge Crescent and Rockhaven Court, and were forced to leave their homes, expressed their frustration with the lack of communication from the RCMP.

"I don't really know what the hell is going on other than we were told to get the hell out," said another man named Ken, a resident who lives across the street from where the package was discovered.



Police holding the scene at 54 Lakeridge Cres. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Quoted

"I would like to know a hell of a lot more. This is my street, my neighbourhood, my livelihood."

Ken, a resident of the neighbourhood who wouldn't provide his last name.

She's not leaving without her Baby

Bethany Rideout immediately rushed home the moment she heard that her Cole Harbour neighborhood was being evacuated after RCMP discovered a suspicious package in the area.

"I didn't hear anything until my friends were screen-shooting the tweets,

and next thing you know my house is all over the Internet," she said, standing feet from her house on the corner of Rockhaven Court and Lakeridge Crescent on Tuesday afternoon.

Huddled in her arms was a tiny black bunny named Baby, whom Rideout told officers on the scene she

wasn't leaving behind.

"She's scared of the cold," Rideout said with a laugh as she petted the shivering bunny.

Rideout said that as she was driving home to retrieve Baby, an officer stopped her car and told her to turn around.

"Well, I said, 'What

about pets?'" and was then given a few minutes to go in and grab the bunny — and, of course, a bag of rabbit food.

"I might have to live off it, too," Rideout said afterward, explaining that officers wouldn't say how long the evacuation might last.

Given that mostly fam-

ilies, retirees and a handful of RCMP officers call the Cole Harbour south-end neighbourhood home, Rideout was surprised to hear that anything suspicious would ever happen in the area.

"It's known as the good neighbourhood."

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO



Bethany Rideout holds her bunny on Tuesday. STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

Explore for a healthy, happy life

A for Adventure.
Upcoming book promotes benefits of being active outdoors



RUTH DAVENPORT
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The two Halifax men behind a push to get people — and kids in particular — more engaged in outdoor adventures say it goes beyond a simple call to be more physically active.

“Our tagline is that we’re all adventurers in life, no matter what path we follow,” said Jan LaPierre, one of the

partners behind A for Adventure. “So what can we do to arm you with what you’re going to need when you do confront those difficult aspects of your life, because that’s going to happen.”

LaPierre and business partner Chris Surette launched the A for Adventure enterprise last year as a promotion for a children’s book by the same name, due for release this spring.

A social media campaign and “100 days of adventures” challenge caught on worldwide, leading to regular radio appearances and collaborations with Parks Canada — all in the name of getting families to put down the electronics for a few minutes



Chris Surette, left, and Jan LaPierre of A for Adventure CONTRIBUTED

and head outdoors. “We’re not badmouthing technology, but it’s also important that it is a balance,” said Surette. “And we do feel that because there’s so many more distractions,

we need to teach that culture of adventure earlier and instill it in kids and youth and even us as adults.”

Beyond the physical benefits, LaPierre — who works in

Food for thought

“We all have that desire to explore, but the older we get, the more that diminishes, and we worry a lot that many people, they die at the age of 25 and they just don’t realize it until the age of 80.”

A for Adventure co-author Jan LaPierre

mental health — says actively seeking out adventures provides not only a daily dose of therapy, but also tools to help confront life’s challenges.

He said it’s a concept he addresses in the forthcoming

book, which explores an aspect of adventure for every letter in the alphabet.

“The letter N is for night... night is something that causes you fright,” he said. “And if you’re afraid of something, that’s totally OK. Everybody has something for which they’re scared. So what can we do about that?” Although it’s a children’s book, LaPierre said his hope is that parents, in reading it to their kids, both instill and reconnect with the culture of outdoor adventure.

“We want to grow this idea through education, through the book itself that adventure is a necessary component to a healthy, balanced lifestyle,” he said.



Rising temperatures not enough to deter some ice fishers

A fisherman checks the line while on the ice of Penhorn Lake on Tuesday. Temperatures made their way above zero Tuesday, but thick ice still remains on some lakes from colder temperatures earlier in the month.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

Province keen to cut early intervention times for kids

The Nova Scotia government is hiring more staff to help ease a waiting list of children who need early intervention programs across the province.

A review of the programs released on Tuesday by Education Minister Karen Casey recommends the government strengthen and improve access to them.

Early intervention programs are designed to help young children diagnosed with or who are at risk of developmental delays through intensive treatment that starts from the time they

are born to when they are old enough to enter school.

Casey says the government will start implementing changes recommended in the review, including the call to hire new workers to reduce wait times. The province says there are more than 300 children waiting for these services. Casey says improvements to the system will happen in the next few years.

“Over the next three years we will improve how early intervention programs work in Nova Scotia.” **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Karen Casey wants to improve access to the programs. METRO FILE PHOTO

Bad red-tape report card for most Atlantic provinces

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business has handed out poor grades to three Atlantic provinces for the way they deal with red tape.

The federation’s latest red-tape report card gave Newfoundland and Labrador a grade of C, Prince Edward Island a D, and Nova Scotia a D-plus.

The federation says New Brunswick escaped scrutiny because it’s too soon to evaluate the province’s new Liberal government.

The premiers of all four provinces met Monday in St. John’s, N.L., where they agreed to do more to streamline government regulations.

As well, the Newfoundland and Labrador government issued a statement saying the federation did not offer a rationale for its grade even though the group acknowledged the province’s recent regulatory reforms were an “important step in the right direction.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Washmill Lake underpass cost report coming

Audit and finance committee. Halifax Auditor General launched review of project more than two years ago

2011 vote

Halifax regional council voted 17-4 in January 2011 to proceed with the project and cover the additional costs, rather than leaving the project incomplete.



RUTH DAVENPORT
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A report on the cost overruns of the Washmill Lake underpass — more than two years in the making — is finally set to be revealed.

Halifax Auditor General Larry Munroe will present his review of the \$16-million underpass to council's audit and finance committee Wednesday afternoon.

The underpass was completed in 2011, and in December 2012, Munroe launched a review of the project to examine the \$6 million in additional expenses.

The \$10-million initial cost of the underpass, which runs under Highway 102 and provides a third entrance to Bayers Lake, was shared between the federal, provincial and municipal governments.

However, HRM covered the entire cost overrun, boosting its investment in the project to nearly \$10 million.

City staff told regional council that the excavation needed for the project, as well as unforeseen complications caused by pyritic slate, contributed to the extra costs.

Education

Acadia and faculty contract discussions reach an impasse

Contract talks between Acadia University and its faculty have broken down after a day of discussion with a conciliator, the faculty union says.

According to Acadia University Faculty Association (AUFA) spokesman Dr. Andrew Biro, the conciliator

declared the two sides had reached an impasse after a meeting late last week.

Biro said AUFA stands ready and willing to return to conciliation at any time, as long as there is the possibility of making real progress toward a negotiated collective agreement.

However, in an all-campus email on Monday, Acadia president Ray Ivany said the "AUFA negotiating team rejected our latest offer, informed the conciliator

that they felt an impasse had been reached and requested that the conciliator file his report with the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education."

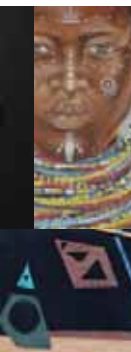
Ivany also wrote that the administration negotiating team would be available and will co-operate fully with the conciliator should he request a return to the table.

"We are at a loss to understand why the union has decided to leave conciliation after a single day of talks,"

said Dr. Peter Williams, the administration's negotiating team spokesperson.

"We have been working in good faith with the union to achieve a mutually agreed upon pension reform process which is an important step to advancing discussions on a new contract."

The faculty union filed for conciliation in September 2014 and then requested a postponement to allow discussions on pension reform to proceed. **KENTVILLE REGISTER**



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'Weird Al' heading to Halifax

'Weird Al' Yankovic, the popular spoof musician, has announced his 2015 world tour for his hit album Mandatory Fun, and it includes a stop at Casino Nova Scotia in Halifax on July 24. Pre-sale begins Jan. 27 at 10 a.m. at weirdal.com, with general seating going on sale Jan. 30 at 10 a.m. through Ticket Atlantic. Tickets will cost for \$60 for regular admission and \$70 for premium seating, plus HST and service charges. **METRO FILE**

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The remains of the one-storey house at 911 Lingan Rd. CAPE BRETON POST

Fatal fire deemed suspicious

Under investigation.
One-storey home destroyed in blaze

Police say the fire at a home in the Sydney area is now considered suspicious.

"The fire has been deemed suspicious and police are investigating," said Desiree Vassallo, spokeswoman with the Cape Breton Regional Police.

The fire destroyed the one-storey house at 911 Lingan Rd. A body was located inside the structure but police have still not released its gender.

Vassallo said the body of the deceased person was removed Monday night with the assistance of the medical examiner's office.

Autopsy planned

The body of the dead person from the Sydney-area fire has been transported to Halifax where an autopsy will take place.

"We are waiting the results of the autopsy."

A fire broke out in the

house at about 3 a.m. Monday.

On Tuesday the scene remained secured.

Officers returned to the scene along with officials from the fire marshal's office as the investigation continued.

Neighbours say a couple in their 40s were renting the bungalow and had moved in past year. CAPE BRETON POST



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The Nova Star ferry THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Ferry funding. MLA wants more disclosure from province on dollars spent

A Progressive Conservative MLA is calling on the provincial government to be more transparent and accountable when it comes to taxpayer money being spent on the Nova Star ferry service.

Chris d'Entremont, who represents the riding of Argyle-Barrington and is the opposition house leader, was reacting to news from the province, disclosed to the public on Sunday, that an additional \$2.5 million has gone to the ferry service. This information had not been made public earlier, despite the fact it was provided on Dec. 23.

In the release, the Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism said that as negotiations continue for the 2015 plan and funding agreement, the government had provided an additional \$2.5 million to Nova Star to cover costs, including berthing fees, fuel, staffing and moving the ship to South Carolina.

The company that runs the service has been unable to find an available winter route for the ship during the off season.

Government investment

\$28.5M

With the \$21 million that went to the service prior to that Sept. 30 date, along with \$5 million announced in October and the additional \$2.5 million, the government has invested \$28.5 million in the service.

D'Entremont calls the government's lack of disclosure prior to information released on Jan. 18 a case of "accidental transparency" and said the government needs to be more upfront about cash injections given to the ferry service, particularly since a new contract for the upcoming season has yet to be finalized.

"Accidental transparency is not only a worry for the families and businesses of southwestern Nova Scotia who are patiently waiting on the government to deliver a sustainable plan for the ferry, but it's insulting to taxpayers as well," said d'Entremont. "It's time for the minister to tell Nova Scotians his plan for this vessel." YARMOUTH VANGUARD

Mackerel massacre has lakeside residents angling for answers

Bras d'Or Lake.

Up-and-down winter temperatures floated as one possible cause

The discovery of hundreds of dead mackerel in a Nova Scotia lake has area residents wondering what killed the fish.

Annette Coffin, a resident of Ben Eoin, first discovered dead fish in the water of Bras d'Or Lake in front of her home a week ago.

"Last Monday morning, there were dead fish everywhere, on the shore and in the water," she said. "They were sort of under the ice ... and there were tons of them on the beach."

Coffin said there were at least 200 dead mackerel visible from her waterfront home, located across from Ski Ben Eoin.



Some of the dead fish found in Bras d'Or Lake. A lakeside resident said she believes a fisheries official has taken samples of the fish and water for testing. CONTRIBUTED

On Monday, a week after Coffin made the initial discovery, there were still dozens of dead mackerel near the shore and seagulls were circling the

area. Coffin, who has since heard reports that the dead mackerel stretch at least as far as Big Pond, said everyone was sur-

prised by the discovery.

"It was new to me but it was also new to some of the long-time neighbours," she said. "We have some people who

think that with the change in the weather — the mild November — that they didn't make it to the ocean and that they were without oxygen and

Ideal climate

According to the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Atlantic mackerel are found in open ocean during the winter months where water temperatures are at or above 7 C, with the optimum temperature for adults being between 9 C and 12 C.

just basically froze to death when the cold weather hit."

Coffin said she contacted various fisheries officials to report the situation.

"I'm pretty sure they died of natural causes, but we would like to be sure because this is a protected waterway," she said.

Coffin said it's her understanding an official came to the site last week and took a couple of the dead fish and water samples for testing.

CAPE BRETON POST

Forums scheduled for two-cent lobster levy

Meetings will be held across mainland Nova Scotia to talk about a proposed two-cent-per-pound fee to help promote and market the lobster industry.

Consultations with members of the lobster-fishing industry will be led by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and will begin Jan. 27.

These talks are being offered as an opportunity for members of the industry to share their views on the proposed fee, talk about what the money could be used for and how the fund could be collected and administered.

It has been proposed that lobster harvesters and processors could each pay a one-cent levy for every pound of lobster

Details

There will be 16 face-to-face meetings west of Halifax, and consultations with fishing associations east of Halifax from Jan. 27 to Feb. 18.

landed as a means of raising funds to be applied to generic marketing.

Last March, Nova Scotia hosted a Canadian Lobster Value Recovery Summit where participants endorsed a Maritime levy.

The levy could also help fund the Lobster Council of Canada, whose work, among other things, includes this type of marketing.

"Hearing from lobster fish-

ermen is important in ensuring this is an industry-led initiative. We have a top-quality product in Nova Scotia. We know it, and I believe it's time for the world to know it too," said Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Keith Colwell. "As the No. 1 supplier of cold-water lobster, a marketing campaign will help us capitalize on the Canadian brand that's already recognized for quality."

There had been confusion created last year when Colwell spoke about a five-cent levy. It was quickly clarified within days, after industry reacted with surprise and confusion, that he was talking about a pilot project for a specific fishing district and not an industry-wide five-cent levy.

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THC Dispensaries Inc.

Marijuana plant gets cash for gear ahead of inspection

Matica Enterprises Inc. is going to help fund a northern Nova Scotia marijuana plant.

The company announced this week that it has provided additional funding to THC Dispensaries Inc. outside Antigonish for the purchase of HVAC equipment ahead of the pre-licensing inspection by Health Canada.

The HVAC system is the one of the final components

needed to complete this brand new, state-of-the-art facility.

THCD is currently in the final stages of preparing for their pre-license inspection.

Matica and THCD expect the date for the final inspection by Health Canada will be set shortly. **NEW GLASGOW NEWS**

Iraq. Canada ahead of U.S. in guiding airstrikes

In helping Kurdish fighters direct airstrikes against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) forces in Iraq, the Canadian military may have put itself out front of even its closest ally.

The U.S. military is not using its special forces operators in front-line positions, an American spokesman confirmed Tuesday. President Barack Obama has been under pressure from Republicans, defence experts and high-profile advisers to loosen restrictions on the roughly 3,100 U.S. troops who are conducting an advise-and-assist mission in Iraq.

Maj. Curtis Kellogg, a spokesman for the U.S. Central Command, which oversees the allied coalition, said there has been no change in American policy, which has its soldiers

running training missions on bases. Defence experts argue that the operation needs forward air controllers to pinpoint targets for air attacks.

U.S. commanders have defended the policy of allowing Iraqi and Kurdish fighters to suggest targets, which are then checked out by coalition surveillance drones or aircraft.

Canada's commander of special forces says their work gives the coalition confidence that the targets are legitimate.

When asked on Monday when the Iraqis will be able to direct air attacks on their own, Canada's top operations commander Lt-Gen. Jonathan Vance said he expects that "down the road, the Iraqi air force and army will be able to bring in, and guide on" airstrikes. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Audit. Dying with Dignity loses charitable tax status

The federal government is stripping Dying with Dignity Canada of its charitable tax status following a political activity audit by the Canada Revenue Agency.

The organization, a registered charity since 1982, advocates for choice and dignity at the end of life, including providing information about patient rights, advance planning and education about physician-assisted death.

Dying with Dignity says the revenue agency has informed it that the organization never should have received charitable status in the first place because it does not advance education in the charitable sense.

Dying with Dignity says in a release that it will continue operations after its charitable status ends next month and that its conversion to a non-

Charity crackdown

In its 2012 budget, the Harper government gave \$8 million to Revenue Canada to audit groups it deemed were engaged in excessive political advocacy.

- **Audit.** The effort has targeted groups that oppose the government's energy policies, foreign aid, human rights and poverty reduction.

profit agency will allow it to conduct political advocacy without constraints.

The group, first registered more than 30 years ago, was re-registered in 2011 when its charitable status was last confirmed. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Alberta

Province sets up rat hotline

Alberta Agriculture wants to make it easier to report sightings of rats in the hope of keeping the destructive rodents out of the province.

The province was rat-free for decades, but faced infestations in southeastern Alberta in 2012 and 2014. Norway rats are extremely destructive and can ruin crops and spread disease. The government has set up a toll-free number: 310-RATS (7287). **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Vancouver

Housing market among world's least affordable

Vancouver is the second-most unaffordable housing market in the world after Hong Kong, according to a new study of major property markets.

Vancouver was the only Canadian city that made it to the Top 10 list, but housing markets in Toronto and Victoria were also ranked as unaffordable by the study. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Sexism, alleged drug use at Calgary city hall

Councillor conduct. Committee hears long list of allegations against council for inappropriate behaviour



ROBSON FLETCHER
Metro in Calgary

Calgary's mayor says he has received several complaints about members of council getting exceedingly drunk at community events, drinking during council meeting breaks, and even bringing illegal narcotics to city hall — but there's nothing existing ethics rules can do to stop it.

A veteran female city councillor, meanwhile, says she has witnessed multiple instances of male councillors behaving toward women at city hall in ways that "would be firing offences" in other workplaces.

Their comments came during a wild committee meeting Tuesday surrounding alcohol consumption and expensing policies that turned into a forum for levelling accusations and airing grievances.

Without naming names, committee members took turns outlining concerning behaviour of their colleagues — past and present — while speaking increasingly specifically about events that have not been fully made public.

"To be frank with you, I have received multiple complaints about members of council who have gotten blotto at community events," Mayor Naheed Nenshi said at one point.

"I've even received reports



Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi's Ismaili faith prevents him from drinking, himself, but he says he's received "multiple complaints" about other members of council drinking to excess. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO IN CALGARY

of illicit substances in the workplace and at this point there's no way to investigate them," the mayor later added. "There's nothing to do about them."

Coun. Druh Farrell, meanwhile, tied the discussion back to allegations revealed late last year surrounding a "systemic issue" of misconduct within the office of the city councillors that led council to agree to "respectful workplace" training following a closed-door meeting.

"It speaks to a tone and that really concerns me," Farrell said Tuesday. "You have mostly men in a position of power and you have women in supporting roles and you add alcohol into that mix."

Farrell, one of two female members on Calgary's 15-person city council, was first

elected in 2001 and said she has seen some "wild parties during working hours" in her time at city hall.

"When I've complained in the past, I've been punished — my wrist has been slapped," she said. "We need to join the 21st century."

Coun. Andre Chabot, a 10-year council veteran, said council has become "way more conservative" in the past decade over these types of issues.

"Previous councils were a lot more lax," Chabot said, admitting he last had a drink in his office in December. "You want to look back at the Ralph Klein days? In the Ralph Klein days they used have to wine for supper — in council."

Chabot also said the allegations raised Tuesday are "untrue" and described some

of his colleagues' comments as "irresponsible."

"When council paints itself in a bad light, then the opinion of the general public becomes that council is running amok," Chabot said.

He and Coun. Ward Sutherland voted against recommended new policies that could forbid alcohol consumption in councillors' offices or during work hours.

Chabot said sometimes city hall guests want to have a drink with a councillor — an occurrence that's only come up three times in his 10 years on council and city policy shouldn't "sterilize our offices of that opportunity."

"I think some people would look at it as disrespectful if they're having a drink and you're not willing to have one with them," Chabot said.

Girl who stopped chemotherapy has stroke, dies

An 11-year-old aboriginal girl who made headlines with her choice to abandon chemotherapy in favour of alternative healing methods to treat her cancer has died.

Makayla Sault, a member of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, located near Brantford, Ont., suffered a stroke on Sunday and died early Monday, her family said.

In a statement issued in the Two Row Times, a weekly newspaper covering indigenous issues, Sault's parents called their daughter's

death "a tragic loss."

"Makayla was on her way to wellness, bravely fighting toward holistic well-being after the harsh side effects that 12 weeks of chemotherapy inflicted on her body," her family said.

"Chemotherapy did irreversible damage to her heart and major organs. This was the cause of the stroke."

Sault's family added that they continued to support their daughter's choice to stop chemotherapy, and called her battle against a

form of leukemia "a valiant fight."

Sault wrote a letter last year asking to be taken off chemotherapy, saying that the treatment was "killing" her body.

"I have asked my mom and dad to take me off the treatment because I don't want to go this way any more," she wrote.

"I know that what I have can kill me but I don't want to die in a hospital on chemo, weak and sick."

The McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton, which



Makayla Sault, with her family.
THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR/
THE CANADIAN PRESS

had administered chemotherapy to Sault, offered its condolences to her family. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo, right, prominent French physician Patrick Pelloux, second from right, and New York City mayor Bill de Blasio, third from right, are among those standing by after laying a wreath of flowers Tuesday at the site of the Charlie Hebdo newspaper attack in Paris. FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France seeks to lay charges in attacks

Terror. New measures to prevent future attacks include increased intelligence-gathering on extremists

French anti-terror prosecutors were seeking to charge four men Tuesday in connection with the attacks in Paris that left 20 people dead. The men would be the first suspects charged in the country's bloodiest terrorist attacks in decades.

The four men remained in court late Tuesday awaiting an anti-terror judge's decision on whether to open preliminary investigations against them.

The possible charges were expected just hours before the French government was to unveil new measures aimed at helping head off future attacks, giving police more power to tap phones, monitor websites and force Internet companies to block online hate messages.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls will present new security measures Wednesday that will include efforts to increase intelligence-gathering against jihadists and other radicals, block their activities on the Internet and prevent them from collaborating inside prisons or traveling abroad to fight, President François Hollande said.

The court case and the arrests came as Valls urged his nation to do some soul-searching about the country's deep ethnic divisions and declared that fighting hatred, anti-Semitism and racism was a top priority.

The Paris prosecutor's office said the four men in court Tues-

Response to criticism

The White House chief of staff is taking the blame for not having a top-level official at an anti-terror solidarity rally earlier this month in Paris. Appearing on a nationally broadcast interview Tuesday, Denis McDonough noted that the White House has said that it regrets the misstep. The decision, he said, "rests on me. That's my job."

- The Obama administration came under sharp criticism for not sending a high-level representative to the march, which was attended by

more than 40 world leaders and more than a million people. The U.S. ambassador to France, Jane Hartley, was the top American official at the rally.

- McDonough said he regretted it in particular because the stir of criticism that it caused "covered up and obfuscated the very good progress that our intelligence agencies, our law enforcement, FBI and DOJ" have made with their French and European counterparts on confronting terrorism.

day were suspected of providing logistical support to Amedy Coulibaly, one of the terrorists killed by police, and requested they be detained longer.

Coulibaly shot a police woman to death on the outskirts of Paris and then killed four hostages inside a kosher supermarket before being shot dead by police. It is not clear whether the four suspects, all in their 20s, were involved in plotting the attacks or even aware of Coulibaly's plans.

Five others arrested in the investigation were released without charge, prosecutors said. No one has been charged with direct involvement in the Paris terror attacks. Coulibaly claimed allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group while the two brothers who attacked the Charlie Hebdo satirical weekly said they were backed by al-Qaida in Yemen.

In Bulgaria, a court on Tuesday agreed to extradite a Frenchman who knew one of the two Kouachi brothers who massacred 12 people at the newspaper. Fritz-Joly Joachin told the Bulgarian court he was innocent and wanted to return to Paris to clear his name.

Meanwhile, France honoured a Mali-born employee of the kosher market who saved lives there by granting him citizenship.

Lassana Bathily, 24, was in the store's stockroom when Coulibaly burst in upstairs and killed four people.

He turned off the freezer and hid a group of shoppers inside before sneaking out to speak to police and help the operation to free the 15 hostages and kill the attacker.

Bathily has lived in France since 2006. He had filed an application for French citizenship last year. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Ancient scroll begins to reveal some of its secrets

Scientists have succeeded in reading parts of an ancient scroll that was buried in a volcanic eruption almost 2,000 years ago, holding out the promise that the world's oldest surviving library may one day reveal all of its secrets.

The scroll is among hundreds retrieved from the remains of a lavish villa at Herculaneum, which along with Pompeii was one of several Roman towns that were destroyed when Mt. Vesuvius erupted in AD 79.

Some of the texts from what is called the Villa of the Papyri have been deciphered since they were discovered in the 1750s, but many more remain a mystery to science because they were so badly damaged that unrolling the papyrus that were written on would have destroyed them completely.

"The papyri were completely covered in blazing-hot volcanic material," said Vito Mocella, a theoretical scientist



An ancient scroll, covered in volcanic material, is displayed Tuesday at the Naples National Library in Italy. SALVATORE LAPORTA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

at the Institute of Microelectronics and Microsystems (CNR) in Naples who led the latest project.

Previous attempts to peer inside the scrolls failed to yield any readable texts because the ink used in ancient times was made from a mixture of charcoal and gum. This makes it indistinguishable from the burned papyrus.

Mocella and his colleagues decided to try a method called

X-ray phase contrast tomography that had previously been used to examine fossils without damaging them.

Phase contrast tomography takes advantage of subtle differences in the way radiation — such as X-rays — passes through different substances, in this case papyrus and ink.

Using lab time at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility in Grenoble, France, the researchers found they were able to decipher several letters, proving that the method could be used to read what's hidden inside the scrolls.

"Our goal was to show that the technique is sensitive to the writing," said Mocella. In a further step, the scientists compared the handwriting to that of other texts, allowing them to conclude that it was likely the work of Philodemus, a poet and Epicurean philosopher who died about a century before the volcanic eruption.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ransom demand

ISIL threatens to kill Japanese hostages

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group threatened to kill two Japanese hostages within 72 hours, demanding a \$200-million ransom in a video posted online Tuesday that showed a masked militant standing over two captives. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Mexico

Tests yield no more DNA in charred remains

Mexican prosecutors said Tuesday that an Austrian forensics lab has been unable to find any more DNA that could be used to identify charred remains that might be those of 42 missing college students, but said they have authorized a final effort.

The University of Innsbruck has offered to use one last technique to identify the remains, but says the testing might destroy the samples without obtaining any useful information. The technique is known as massively parallel sequencing, which uses many computers in co-ordination to perform a task. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Members of Indonesia's National Search And Rescue Agency carry the airplane parts found floating in the water near the site where AirAsia Flight 8501 vanished, at Kumai port in Pangkalan Bun on Monday. AHMAD IBRAHIM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AirAsia. Plane climbing fast before crash: Official

An AirAsia plane that crashed last month with 162 people on board was climbing at an abnormally high rate, then plunged and suddenly disappeared from radar, Indonesia's transport minister said Tuesday.

Ignasius Jonan told Parliament that radar data showed the Airbus A320 was climbing at about 6,000 feet a minute before it disappeared on Dec. 28.

"It is not normal to climb like that, it's very rare for commercial planes, which normally climb just 1,000 to 2,000 feet per minute," he said. "It can only be done by a fighter jet."

He said the plane then plunged toward the sea and disappeared from radar.

Jonan did not say what caused the plane to climb so rapidly.

In their last contact with air-traffic controllers, the pilots

of AirAsia Flight 8501 asked to climb from 32,000 feet to 38,000 feet to avoid threatening clouds, but were denied permission because of heavy air traffic. Four minutes later, the plane disappeared. No distress signal was received.

An excessively rapid ascent is likely to cause an airplane to go into an aerodynamic stall. In 2009, an Air France Airbus A330 disappeared over the Atlantic Ocean in bad weather while flying from Rio de Janeiro to Paris. Investigators were able to determine from the jet's black boxes that it began a steep climb and then went into a stall from which the pilots were unable to recover.

Airbus spokesman Justin Dubon said Tuesday that it was too early to comment on possible similarities between the two crashes. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Retail. Goodlife Fitness eyeing Target locations

Is a Canadian exercise club a good fit for an old Target? Goodlife Fitness seems to think so.

In a statement sent out Tuesday, Goodlife Fitness said it is eyeing the soon-to-be-vacant Target stores across Canada as an option to expand.

The fitness chain's goal is to expand to 400 locations in 2015, with a goal to eventually reach 1,000 storefronts, the CEO said.

"The former Target locations provide spacious and convenient locations that would be an excellent space," David Patchell-Evans, Goodlife Fitness CEO, said in a statement.

"In 1999, we acquired 12 of the former Eaton's stores, and at that time we were a much smaller company and solely based in Ontario, so we are definitely poised for this type of growth."

"We want our real estate and shopping-centre partners to be healthy and successful, too, so this would be a positive solution for all."

Patchell-Evans told Metro that Goodlife is looking at a



This Target store in Toronto could be sporting a new logo as part of Goodlife Fitness growth strategy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

number of options but would not go into specifics.

"(We're) in the beginning stages of expressing interest in many Target locations and evaluating what might be possible," he said. "To date, we have had high-level discussions with a number of landlords."

Patchell-Evans said former Target employees are encouraged to apply for jobs with Goodlife, noting whenever possible, Target employees would get first crack at interviews.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO IN WINNIPEG

Teen builds Braille printer with Lego kit

California. Eighth-grader's dream of producing a low-cost machine for the blind gets backing from Intel

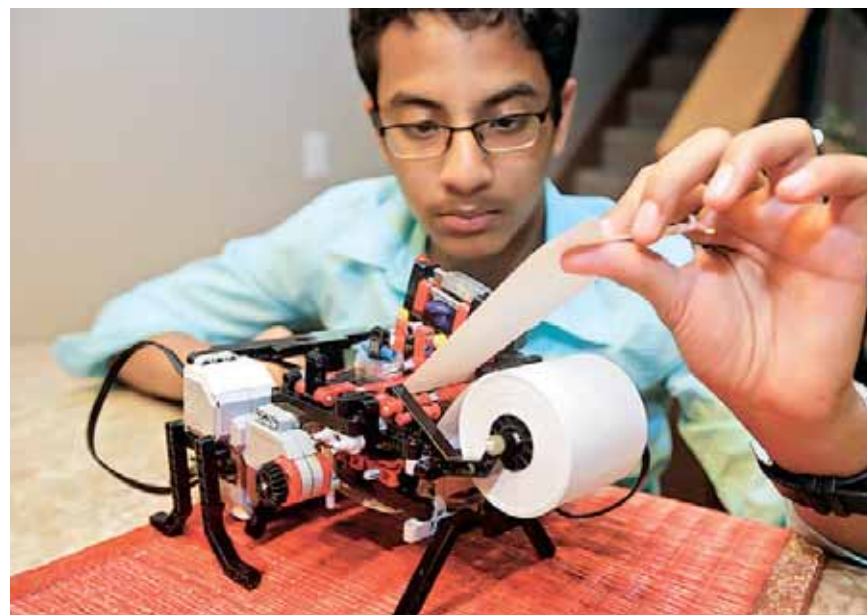
In Silicon Valley, it's never too early to become an entrepreneur. Just ask 13-year-old Shubham Banerjee.

The California eighth-grader has launched a company to develop low-cost machines to print Braille, the tactile writing system for the visually impaired.

Shubham built a Braille printer with a Lego robotics kit as a school science fair project last year after he asked his parents a simple question: How do blind people read? Shubham did some online research and was shocked to learn that Braille printers, also called embossers, cost at least \$2,000 US — too expensive for most blind readers, especially in developing countries.

Shubham wants to develop a desktop Braille printer that costs around \$350 US and weighs just a few pounds, compared with current models that can weigh more than 20 pounds.

After the Braigo — a name that combines Braille and Lego — won awards and enthusiastic support from the blind



Shubham Banerjee, 13, launched a company to develop a low-cost Braille printer based on a prototype he built with his Lego robotics kit for a school science fair project. MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

community, Banerjee started Braigo Labs last summer with an initial \$35,000 US investment from his dad, Niloy Banerjee, an engineer who works for Intel.

Shubham used the money to build a more sophisticated version of his Lego-based printer using an off-the-shelf desktop printer and a newly released Intel computer chip. The new model, Braigo 2.0, can

translate electronic text into Braille before printing.

Intel executives were so impressed with Shubham's printer that in November they invested an undisclosed sum in his startup. Intel officials believe he's the youngest entrepreneur to receive venture capital money. Braigo Labs is using the money to hire professional engineers and advisers to help design and build Braille print-

ers based on Shubham's ideas. The company aims to have a prototype ready for blind organizations to test this summer and have a Braigo printer on the market later this year.

Shubham is too young to be CEO of his own company, so his mother, Malini, has taken the job, though she admits she wasn't too supportive when he started the project.

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Market Minute



DOLLAR
82.60¢
(-1.10¢)



TSX
14,398.44 (-4.06)



OIL
\$46.47 US (-\$2.66)



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Dow Jones: 17,515.23 (+3.66)



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Airlines

Alitalia plans new routes, hubs after Etihad takeover

Alitalia's new chairman Luca Cordero di Montezemolo aims to make the airline profitable in 2017 following its takeover by U.A.E.-based Etihad Airways.

Alitalia's new strategy envisions new routes from Rome to Dusseldorf, San Francisco, Beijing, Santiago, Chile, among other cities, and extra flights to New York, Chicago, Rio de Janeiro and Abu Dhabi, Etihad's hub.

The new strategy focuses on three Italian hubs: Milan's Malpensa and Linate airports and Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banking

U.S. retailers lose court battle over debit card fees

The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected a challenge from retailers who claim the U.S. Federal Reserve allows banks to charge businesses too much for handling debit card transactions.

The justices let stand a federal appeals court ruling that upheld the Fed's cap of about 24 cents per transaction on so-called "swipe fees" that merchants pay to banks every time a customer uses a debit card to make a payment.

Before the cap was imposed, fees averaged 44 cents per swipe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Financial services

Walmart will cash tax refunds at its U.S. stores

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is launching a service allowing customers in the U.S. to pick up their tax refunds in cash at its Walmart stores.

It says the process will take the same time as if customers were to file their returns electronically, then get direct deposit, which could take just a week. The service could help people without bank accounts avoid high check-cashing fees.

The stores are teaming up with more than 25,000 tax-preparation locations. Walmart doesn't charge a fee for the cash pickup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOICES

A COOL POPE IS STILL A POPE

With his off-script common-sense pronouncements based on love and kindness, the latest leader of the Catholic church has been handing some excellent smackdowns to the pious powers that be. But when he tells his flock they don't need to be like rabbits, but shouldn't use birth control, what's an agnostic supposed to do but poke fun?



PAUL SULLIVAN
readers@metronews.ca

The latest advice from Pope Francis to the Catholic flock: don't be like rabbits. Presumably he's not referring to having big ears and a cute fluffy tail.

Before I go any further, I should make it clear that Pope Francis is the best pope ever, even better than Pope John XXIII and the unfortunate 33-day pope, John Paul I, who showed brief promise.

Francis, who named himself after the best saint ever, has tightened the Roman collar around more than one powerful Vatican neck with his off-script common-sense pronouncements based on love and kindness.

It was reported that the Pope told a little boy who just lost his dog that all dogs go to heaven. Turns out he didn't really say that, but he didn't rush to issue any denials, either. Just helped pick up the theologians who fainted when they heard the report.

But, hey, he's still the pope, and there's a line the pope can never cross: birth control.

Apparently using any



Pope Francis's latest headline-grabbing remarks: "Some people think that — excuse my expression here — in order to be good Catholics we have to be like rabbits. No. Parenthood is about being responsible. This is clear." METRO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

technology other than restraint remains at the top of the list of Catholic no-nos — the technical term is sins — as the Pope re-affirmed on

the way home from his visit to the Philippines.

Clearly, the shoes of the fishermen weren't quite touching the ground as Il

Papa told reporters that people should practise "responsible parenting," as in, "Not tonight, dear, we already have 11 kids."

You'd think that responsible parenting would include tactical use of condoms, birth-control pills, etc., anything that would

head off the rush of sperm swimming like the dickens to increase the world's population — oblivious as sperm are to the requirement to feed, clothe and house all those babies once they arrive.

Of course this new doctrine of "responsible parenting" is a real departure from the bad old days, when God told good Catholics to breed like rabbits ... and eat fish sticks on Friday. In today's church, says Francis, there's no need to breed like a bunny. But he's a little vague on the appropriate animal role model going forward. Maybe salmon, which have sex every four years.

OK, so I'm not infallible. Poor Francis is wrapped in a dogmatic dilemma: bringing birth control to the party puts a host of horny Catholics on the slippery slope. It means that the option exists to have sex for purposes other than procreation (as if, snort!).

But the church is apparently willing to go down fighting on this one, even if it means confounding the faithful and providing the faithless with another reason to engage in unholy jest.

Forget gyms; what we need are good old-fashioned indoor parks



SEAN MCKIBBIN
readers@metronews.ca

Target's departure is going to leave some very large commercial spaces empty, with various mega-corporations jostling to fill the space.

Included on that list is fitness giant Goodlife, which announced this week that it is interested in taking over the lease. As a mildly overweight 40-something dude with two kids, this got me thinking.

With some of these spaces

hovering at around 100,000 square feet, the gym chain could certainly fill these spaces with fun things like pools and saunas — but what I'm really thinking is an indoor park.

In other words, a place where my kids could do what they like to do when they get into a Target or other open area in the winter time: run like the dickens.

I don't mean a fitness club. A park. With plants. A few teeter totters, maybe some hoops, some benches.

Fake grass, real grass, I

Y'know, like a park park

Fake grass, real grass, I don't know — but some place where I don't have to worry about the kids giving some poor security guard the unpleasant task of being the heavy and telling them to not run around.

don't know — but some place where I don't have to worry about the kids giving some poor security guard the unpleasant task of being the heavy and telling them to not run around.

In the '50s, people thought about building Iqaluit under a

giant dome, but that never took off. As a former resident of Nunavut's capital, I'm kind of glad. The outdoors are nice.

But sometimes, even in balmy southern Canada, it's really cold. And there's that nasty period in the spring when it's still really cold, but

taking a canoe to the park seems like a better option than galoshes.

Ottawa, where I live, has some great, large inflatable-dome facilities that even let people go in for walking sessions, but nothing unorganized.

Kids and adults alike need a place to just be themselves.

Maybe there could be a play structure, but not one of those nutty giant hamster mazes. My kids love going to those places and doing laser tag or the trampoline park. Those places are all great but

they aren't what I'm talking about.

When they're little, you have to kind of run after them. Mildly overweight, 40-something dudes do not belong in giant hamster mazes.

Maybe I should get a Good-life membership.

But I still want that indoor park.

Sean McKibbin is the managing editor of Metro Ottawa. He adores his children, who are actually very well behaved but exceptionally fast runners.



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SCENE 2

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE
ON THE WORLD
OF CELEBRITIES

Johnny Depp ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Johnny is not with the band

Attention actors who try to launch music careers: Stop it. You're making Johnny Depp sick. "That whole idea for me is a sickening thing, it's always just made me sick," Depp said while promoting *Mortdecai* in Berlin. "I hate the idea, 'Come see me play guitar because you've seen me in 12 movies.' It shouldn't be. You want the people who are listening to

the music to only be interested in the music." Firm but fair.

So, according to Depp's strict, Draconian take on how music should be appreciated, which of his fellow movie stars are in violation?

Jared Leto certainly jumps to mind, as does Scarlett Johansson — hey, remember her album of Tom Waits covers? Yeah, no. Oh, and Rus-

sell Crowe has a band. And doesn't his *Mortdecai* co-star Gwyneth Paltrow like to sing, too? Man, they're all going to have some explaining to do when they see Depp at the next *Millionaire Movie Stars* Rotary Club meeting.

But at least some good comes from all of this, as Depp insists, "You won't be hearing The Johnny Depp Band. That won't ever exist."

How to totally not talk about dating Taylor Swift

Matt Healy, ostensibly the singer of the band The 1975, is becoming much better known as the guy who insists he's not dating Taylor Swift, despite photos of the pair together and his regular comments during interviews about meeting her. But God, guys, why do you keep bringing it up? He totally doesn't want to talk about it. Except he does: It's "all bloody fake. It's a farce," Healy insists during a recent radio interview.

"We met each other, we exchanged numbers in the same way that a lot of people in this world kind of do, and we spoke occasionally. She's the biggest pop star in the world and I'm in Australia. There's no relationship of anything



Taylor Swift

happening. It's just funny how people really, really buy into that."

That's all fine and good, but why do you have to bag on Australia like that? What's wrong with Australia?

Moore was just hating on snipers in general, alright?

Michael Moore is peeved at the press for turning his casual discussion of snipers and why they're terrible into an attack on box office titan *American Sniper*. The nerve of some people, right?

Moore initially tweeted, "My uncle (was) killed by (a) sniper in WWII. We were taught snipers were cowards. Will shoot (you) in the back. Snipers aren't heroes," and that tweet just happened to go out as most of Hollywood

was re-marking at how much money Clint Eastwood's new movie was making.

But that does not mean the two are related, according to Moore.

"Deadline Hollywood and the Hollywood Reporter turned that into stories about how I don't like Clint Eastwood's new film, *American Sniper*. I didn't say a word about *American Sniper* in my tweets."

Yeah, guys. Come on. Can't a guy just casually talk about snipers completely apropos of nothing, free of any agenda? Yeesh.



Michael Moore

Playtime was never this fun

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On Fox drama Empire, Cookie rules the roost

New series. At the heart of show about a hip-hop dynasty is a glamorous, fiercely astute businesswoman

Taraji P. Henson is driving down an L.A. street, chatting on her cellphone, when a billboard catches her eye.

"Hi, me! Hiiii!" she says, smiling at her latest on-screen incarnation: glamorous ex-con Cookie Lyon in *Empire* (which airs Wednesdays on OMNI 2, OMNI AB, OMNI BC and on Fox).

Draped in fabulous furs and drenched in attitude, Henson's Cookie is the heart of the Fox drama, a fiercely devoted mother and astute businesswoman who's fearless when it comes to getting what she wants. Her sometimes-reluctant partner is Lucious Lyon (Terrence Howard), a music mogul deciding which of their three sons should run the family's entertainment empire.

Henson has seen her face on billboards before, with dozens of film credits (including 2008's *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, for which she earned a supporting actress Oscar nod) and popular TV series such as *Person of Interest* to her name. "Sometimes I forget, you know what I mean?" she says. "I just go on about my day, and look up and go, 'That's right, I do have a TV show coming out!'"

The 44-year-old actress pulled over to talk with *The Associated Press* about the new show and the empire that is Taraji P. Henson.

Who is Cookie?

She is a hero. I mean, she is the truth. She is strong.



Cookie Lyon, right, played by Taraji P. Henson, visits her son Jamal (Jussie Smollett, centre) and his partner Mike in the premiere episode of *Empire*. CHUCK HODES/FOX

She's family first. She's a lot of things. She doesn't compromise at all — never herself, and never her truth. That's what I love about her ... She says things that I might not have the guts to say. I love the way she dresses. I love how much she cares about her sons.

How is it working with Terrence Howard again, your old pal from *Hustle & Flow*?

I just know that I really like working with Terrence. I trust him. And for me as an artist — acting, you really have to be uninhibited. You cannot have any hang-ups.

Or if you do, they can't breathe and live through these characters, because their hang-ups aren't your hang-ups. So for me in order to fully explore characters without throwing

Taraji in the mix, I have to feel safe ... And with Terrence, I'm so safe with him, I can try anything... We're friends. We've known each other, so it really works for Cookie and Lucious. When they came to me with the project, I said it has to be Terrence. When I cracked open the script, I saw no one but Terrence.

What's most challenging to you as an actress right now?

Challenging is getting what I think I deserve to be paid. (It's) challenging to get the projects I want done or greenlit. I'm still having to prove I'm bankable. But I think it's getting better!

I'm not one to wallow in the muck and say how bad. I don't harp on how bad things are... My thing is to prove each and every time I'm on

the screen — whether it's TV, whether it's film, whether it's the stage — Taraji is going to deliver. So when I do get that moment — 'cause it's coming,

Will *Empire* and *American Idol* cross-pollinate?

- American Idol producers have talked about a cross-promotion with *Empire*, Fox's hot new series about a music industry family, perhaps getting some of the contestants on the scripted show.
- "The music connection would be silly to ignore," said Trish Kinane, executive producer of *American Idol*.
- The two shows air back-to-back on Wednesday nights. *Empire* has been a success out of the box, already earning an order for a second season, while age has cost *American Idol* its long-time status of television's biggest show.
- Folks at *Empire* signalled an interest in the idea Saturday. "It would be stupid not to," said actor Terrence Howard, who plays the show's lead character, Lucious Lyon.
- American Idol producers, host Ryan Seacrest and judges Keith Urban, Jennifer Lopez and Harry Connick Jr. talked about steps being taken to get stronger performers among the finalists this season. While the show had good contestants last year, one reason it faded in the ratings is because some of them could have done more to connect with an audience, Seacrest said.

I work too hard — when I do get that moment, that perfect movie comes along and some studio is going to say, 'I believe in her.' Not me and a man. Not

me and another guy, no. Taraji P. Henson is going to open this film. Then I know that I'm doing my job.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Homophobia

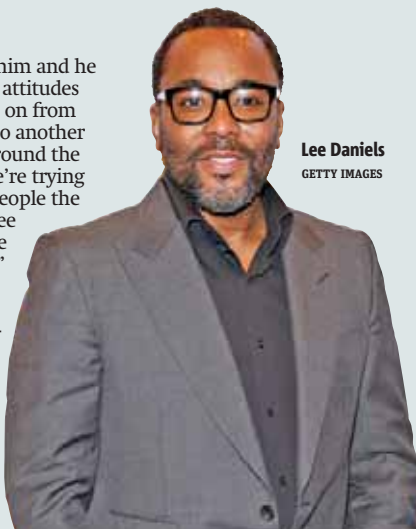
Show tackles hostility toward gays in black community

The creator of Fox's prime-time soap *Empire* said he wants to "blow the lid off homophobia" in the African-American community with a depiction of the show's lead character's hostile relationship with his gay son.

Lee Daniels, who was also behind the movies *The Butler* and *Precious*, said that his own father's hostility toward

gays frightened him and he knows the same attitudes are being passed on from one generation to another in households around the world. "What we're trying to do is to give people the opportunity to see that what they're doing is painful," Daniels said.

Empire is the story of a strong-willed music family whose patriarch, Lucious Lyon, is portrayed by Terrence Howard. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Lee Daniels
GETTY IMAGES

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New Zealand is for lovers

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Here are some dreamy hideouts if you're looking to hole up a world away with your partner

KATHY
ULLYOTT
scene@metronews.ca

Whether you and your beloved are honeymooning for the first or the 15th time, these spectacular New Zealand romantic retreats are perfect for your stay on the island of "the long white cloud."

Hotel DeBrett, Auckland hoteldebrett.com

With its thick bespoke, 100 per-cent-New-Zealand-wool carpeting, eclectic mix of Art Deco and mid-century furnishings and meticulous attention to comfort, the Hotel DeBrett is exactly what owner Michelle Deery designed it to be: a luxurious, stylish home base in the dramatic, cosmopolitan business capital of New Zealand. Right downtown on Auckland's High Street, the Hotel DeBrett features such luxuries as hand-screen-printed bed throws, spa bath and shower and salon-quality hair dryers. Its on-site restaurant, DeBrett's Kitchen, has won a wall full of awards, including Metro 2014 Restaurant of the Year.

Duke of Marlborough Hotel, Russell theduke.co.nz

The Duke proudly boasts that it has been "refreshing rascals and reprobates since 1827," when the Bay of Islands town of Russell was a raucous



The Duke of Marlborough boasts romantic views of the Bay of Islands and the "freshest seafood in New Zealand."
ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED



The Farm at Cape Kidnappers is situated on a 6,000 acre working farm.

whaling port notorious for its, um, nightlife. Now, the once-named "hell-hole of the Pacific" is a charming retreat, and Riki Kinnaird and three associates have transformed the old Duke into its jewel.



Indulge in the Wai Ora's award-winning spa treatments.

In addition to 25 rooms, all with spectacularly romantic views of the Bay of Islands, The Duke's restaurant claims "the freshest seafood in New Zealand" and its menu is a sampler of kiwi delicacies: Waikare Inlet oysters, green-lipped mussels, forest mushrooms, Matakana blue cheese

and wild Raukumara venison.

The Farm at Cape Kidnappers, Hawke's Bay capekidnappers.com

You could be forgiven for wanting to spend your entire honeymoon vacation at this five-star luxury lodge hotel. A Relais & Chateau property on 6,000 se-

If you go...

It's a long flight to the Antipodes (13 hours from Vancouver; 18 from Toronto), so fly as comfortably as you can. There are good reasons why Air New Zealand wins bundles of awards worldwide every year from both airlines' and travellers' associations; not least among them, their hilarious safety videos. (Right now, you can enjoy "An Unexpected Briefing" featuring a cast of hobbits, dwarves, elves and Peter Jackson himself.) You might even win your trip for free: go to airnewzealand.com and enter before Jan. 31, 2015 for a chance to win two economy class tickets.

Visit metronews.ca to find out about three more honeymoon destinations in New Zealand.



cluded acres of working farm, it offers individual lodge accommodation with incredible views of storied Cape Kidnappers — one of Captain Cook's original New Zealand landings. In addition to an infinity pool, par-71 golf course, an award-winning restaurant and luxury spa, you can enjoy cycling and trout fishing. However, The Farm is also a sanctuary for the famed kiwi, and a relationship between the hotel and New Zealand Environmental Services allows you to hike out on a Kiwi Discovery Walk with a conservationist to find the country's secretive emblem. You can also visit the gannet colony on Black Reef, or pack a picnic to take on any one of seven walking/cycling trails that wander

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Sunscape Sabor Cozumel



Copthorne Hotel & Resort is within cycling distance of Maori sacred sites like Waipoua Forest.

through the gorges, woods and seashores of the property.

The Spire, Queenstown thespirehotel.com

Owners (and sisters) Amelia and Lucy Gain purchased the elegant, 10-room Spire just over three years ago, and the hotel is a testament to their attention to pampering detail. Guests are greeted with welcoming bubbly, fruit and chocolate (for two, natch); sinuous Danish recliners invite relaxation before the fireplace; L'Occitane toiletries accent a spa-style bath or shower. While right downtown in bustling Queenstown, the rooms are soothing and quiet, with views overlooking the 82-year-old St. Peter's Anglican Church, from which the hotel draws its name.

Copthorne Hotel & Resort, Hokiangia millenniumhotels.co.nz/copthornehokianga
According to legend, Kupe, the ancestor and founder of the Maori on New Zealand, landed here in Hokiangia Har-

bour some 1,000 years ago, calling the protected inlet home. Right on the harbor, and just cycling-distance away from Maori sacred sites such as Waipoua Forest is the Copthorne Hotel and Resort, a 108-year-old boutique inn perfect for weddings, receptions and honeymoons. Owner Pip Lloyd says many couples choose to wed at the spectacular grounds overlooking the Tasman Sea.

Wai Ora Lakeside Spa Resort, Rotorua waioraresort.co.nz

The mineral-rich hot springs of Rotorua have been drawing health-conscious tourists to New Zealand since the mid-1800s. The Wai Ora (the name means "healing waters") is not just an ideal base from which to explore this history-rich area, but to relax and indulge in international-award-winning spa facilities and treatments. The on-site Mokoia Restaurant offers Pacific Rim infusion cuisine, outstanding service and panoramic views of Lake Rotorua.



Hotel DeBrett is located in downtown Auckland.

How-to

Navigate connecting flights

1. Mentally prepare yourself for weather delays — for planes, trains and automobiles.
2. Book flights as early as possible, and go with the morning routes. There is more chance of correcting a connecting problem if it occurs early in the day.
3. Leave lots of time between flights in case your starting leg is behind schedule.
4. What's the weather in your connecting city? Many people ignore this — don't be one of them. There's more chance of weather delays in New York than in Miami, for example.
5. Consider that smaller connecting airports will have fewer problems, less people, less traffic, etc.
6. Can't handle it? Pay the extra money to fly non-stop.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

New

Barbados goes pet-friendly

Pack up your pets: Barbados is now allowing Canadian cats and dogs onto the islands. With 40 per cent of Canadians travelling to Barbados being repeat visitors, this sunny "second home" can now include the furry member of the family. Pets need to be ID'd with a microchip, be vaccinated against rabies and carry an official health certificate from the vet. Just think of the dog-sitting money you'll save! Visit agriculture.gov.bb.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO



Stopover

Taste of Iceland

Tour operator Monograms is introducing an Iceland Stopover Program, enticing travellers on their way to and from Europe with a three-day mini tour, with digs at the swish Icelandic Reykjavik Marina Hotel. The trip includes breakfast, airport transfers, a sightseeing tour, a visit to Hallgrímskirkja Church and help from a local tour guide. From \$800, airfare not included. Icelandair flies to 20+ European cities, so that's kind of a no-brainer. Visit monogramtravel.ca.

TEXT: DOUG WALLACE/METRO

PHOTO: TIM STEWART



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How to stand out in an interview situation

Career. Make yourself memorable using these one-on-one tips

VERONICA
YAO

TalentEgg.ca

One of the toughest parts of the job hunt is making it through the written application stage. While a resumé is excellent for communicating your skills and accomplishments, it's not a great tool for conveying your personality.

As soon as you're called in for an interview, you go from being words on a page to a living, breathing human being.

Now the ball is in your court — and the last thing you want to do is be forgettable. So here are some tips on how to make your first impressions count with a potential employer.

Wear something memorable

No, don't break out your powder-blue tuxedo. But wearing an appropriate, but memorable



Catching their eye with a little pop of colour is an easy but effective way of keeping you on their mind. ISTOCK

accessory can help you stand out among other applicants.

For instance, if you're wearing a suit, you could wear a bow tie, or a coloured pocket square.

If you decide to wear a dress or skirt, you could accessorize with some brightly coloured jewelry.

Many interviewees tend

to play it safe by sticking with classic neutral colours — but even something small to make your outfit "pop" can help you do the same in an interviewer's mind. Furthermore, if your interviewer happens to like what you're wearing, it could spark an interesting conversation that they're not going to

Take notes

Taking notes tells your interviewer that you're listening.

- But more importantly, it says that you are invested in the information they're giving you, and you're open to learning new things. Even if a candidate has all the experience needed for the job, if they're not willing to learn, they're of little use to the employer.

- Bring along a notebook

or a tablet to take your notes. If it has a colourful or eye-catching cover — bonus. Again, like a memorable accessory, this is another way you can start a conversation with your employer.

- One last point — don't be afraid to ask them to repeat something. Your note-taking skills are not being judged, but your attitude is.

sion on your interviewer.

Be passionate and genuine

There's nothing more invigorating than watching someone who is passionate about what they do. It's important to show why you love what you do, and the energy that you'll bring to the company.

This doesn't mean that you eat, sleep, and breathe maintenance work 24 hours a day, or you'll work overtime because you absolutely love working with spreadsheets. Instead, your passion should stem from the satisfaction you get as a result of the job — or even aspects of the job.

An applicant might not love stocking shelves in retail, but they might get an immense sense of satisfaction from coming up with organizational plans and executing them.

You might even link your work ethic to a hobby in your life. If you are a fan of sports, talk about how that passion links to different facets in your life, including work. Or if you're a musician, talk about skills you've gained through teamwork and collaboration.

have with other candidates.

Take an interest in them as a person

Yes, interviewers are people too. And when they finish their day at five o'clock, they go back to their lives of being a parent, athlete, artist, volunteer — you name it.

People, for the most part, like talking about themselves. If you ask them about their day, and seem genuinely interested,

they're usually happy to share.

So while there will be time for the spotlight to be on you, remember to take some time before and after to make small-talk. If you're not sure where to begin, see if they have a LinkedIn profile. Take a look at their interests and previous experiences. Chances are, you'll find something you can bring up casually and chat about. And if you do it well, you will very likely leave a positive impres-

Enhance your school experience with a part-time job

Career. The right position can provide more than just cash

LAKSHMI
GANDHI

Metro in New York City

Not many college students can say that they were paid to talk about beer throughout post-secondary school, but that's exactly what Liz Wessel did while she attended the University of Pennsylvania.

"I was the Anheuser-Busch rep on campus," Wessel explains. "I considered my job a supplement to my education."

It was during her time at Penn that Wessel and classmate J.J. Fliegelman decided

to create a site exclusively geared toward students looking for jobs as campus reps.

After graduation, the pair decided to create a firm that would connect students with such companies.

Wessel was working in India for Google when she and Fliegelman decided to launch their new company Campus Job — which connects companies with interested student workers. In addition to listings for more conventional college students positions at coffee shops, it also recruits for larger companies as well.

Her work experience as a campus rep provided much of the inspiration behind the website, she says.

"I still had no idea what I wanted to do [while I was in college]," recalls Wessel, a political science major.

"It was actually my part-time job that led me to realize 'Wow, I like marketing.'"

We talked to Wessel about how students can build their skills off-campus.

Become a better public speaker

"For my job I had to visit fraternities and sororities to talk about products and



Sometimes it's helpful to take time away from your studies, even if it means heading to a workplace. ISTOCK

also promote the engineering jobs at Anheuser-Busch. I had never gone in front of hundreds of peers to do something like that," says Wessel.

Many of the jobs listed on the site require employees to be comfortable speaking in front of large groups, she notes.

Explore new fields

Wessel advises students use

their part-time positions to gain skills outside their courses of study.

"We did an analysis of recent grads and the majority of students said their majors had nothing to do with their jobs," she notes.

"We talked to a pre-med student who wanted to look for a job in marketing because they thought, 'Let me try out a new field. Let me gain new skills.'"

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Spaghetti moonlights as a savoury pie

Dinner. You lose the traditional pastry shell but still bake this dish and slice it up for a new take on pasta



DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

This spaghetti pie is a long time favourite for my family because it packs a punch when it comes to flavour and meal appeal.

Use your favourite spaghetti but be sure to cook it al dente, which translated means "to the tooth."

It should still be slightly firm with a bit of a bite to it, so that means you'll have to be sure to taste your pasta while its cooking to note the change in texture.

You might find that you like your pasta a little more al dente than you have been making it.

By cooking pasta correctly you will enjoy the dish and also ensure a perfect flavour and texture each time.

Instead of the traditional spaghetti and meat sauce piled high on a plate, this dish is served up like a pie!

Just bake the tasty mixture in a pie plate then serve it to your family in wedges with a crisp green salad for a new twist.

Directions

1. In large saucepan cook turkey for about 5 minutes or until no longer pink. Drain in sieve to remove fat. Return saucepan to medium heat with oil and cook on-



This recipe serves four. EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients

- 8 oz (250 g) extra lean ground turkey
- 2 tsp (10 ml) canola oil
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp (5 ml) Italian herb seasoning
- 2 cups (500 ml) chopped broccoli
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) pasta sauce
- 2 tsp (10 ml) butter or soft non hydrogenated margarine
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) all purpose flour
- 1 cup (250 ml) skim milk
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) 1% cottage cheese
- 6 oz (175 g) cooked spaghetti (about 3 cups/750 ml)

START TO FINISH ABOUT 40 MINUTES

FLASH FOOD



From your fridge to your table in about 30 minutes

Tip

- Make the spaghetti pie ahead of time and do not bake.
- Wrap and refrigerate for up to 1 day. Cover with foil and reheat in 350 F (180 C) oven for about 45 minutes.

ion, garlic and Italian seasoning; stirring for about 2 minutes or until onion is softened. Return turkey to saucepan and add broccoli and tomato sauce; bring to a simmer, cover and cook for 5 minutes. Set aside.

2. In another saucepan, melt margarine over medium heat. Whisk in flour until smooth. Whisk in milk and cook, whisking for about 5 minutes or until starting to thicken and bubble. Whisk in cottage cheese and remove from heat.

3. Add al dente spaghetti to turkey mixture and stir in 1/2 cup (125 ml) of the cheese sauce. Pour into 10 inch (25 cm) deep dish pie plate; pressing down to flatten. Spread remaining cheese sauce over top and bake in 350 F (180 C) oven for about 20 minutes or until bubbly. Broil about 6 inches (15 cm) away from broiler for about 2 minutes or until golden on top, if desired. Let cool slightly before cutting into wedges to serve.



This recipe serves four to six. MILKCALENDAR.CA

Tacos get the casserole treatment

While this dish comes together quickly, you can ensure that each of your weeknight dinners includes a well-balanced array of all food groups by taking a few minutes on the weekend to plan your week's dinners so you won't have to make last-minute decisions.

If you like spicy food, stir in or serve this Taco Supper Bake with hot pepper sauce.

1. Preheat oven to 400 F (200 C). In a large skillet, melt butter over medium-high heat; cook chicken with onion, red pepper, chili powder to taste, oreg-

ano and salt, using a fork to break up meat, for about 5 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Stir in beans, corn and salsa. Whisk milk with flour. Gradually stir milk mixture into chicken mixture. Bring to a boil, then stir frequent-

ly for 2 minutes.

2. Remove from heat; stir in 1 cup (250 ml) of the cheese. Transfer into an 8-inch (2 l) square dish.

3. Sprinkle chicken with tortilla chips then remain-

ing cheese. Bake for 10 minutes or just until cheese is melted. Let stand for 5 minutes before serving. Scoop out into bowls. Serve with additional salsa, sour cream and guacamole.

DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA/ MILKCALENDAR.CA

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) butter
- 1 lb (450 g) ground chicken
- 1/2 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 red pepper, finely diced
- 1 to 2 tbsp (15 to 30 ml) chili powder
- 2 tsp (10 ml) dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt
- 19-oz (540 ml) can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup (250 ml) frozen corn
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) salsa
- 1 cup (250 ml) milk
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) all-purpose flour
- 2 cups (500 ml) grated Canadian Cheddar, divided
- 1 cup (250 ml) tortilla chips, barely crushed

Focus is on 'playing our best,' not stats, says coach

Mooseheads. Team still has its sights set on 'first overall' after trading key players



KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE

kristen.lipscombe@metronews.ca

For Halifax Mooseheads head coach Dominique Ducharme, "the goal remains the same" now as it was to start the season.

"First overall," the determined bench boss said Tuesday, of where he sees his team landing in the standings at the end of regular season.

"That's where we want to finish," he said. "We want to take the best spot possible to enter the playoffs."

Truth be told, Ducharme's herd doesn't focus day in and day out on rankings, instead keeping its daily task simpler by just "playing our best."

He believes the Moose have been doing a decent job of that lately, even with the loss of touted netminder Zachary Fucale to the Quebec Remparts in a mid-season trade, in addition to other changes on the back end.

Veteran defenceman Matt Murphy also ended up in Quebec as part of that deal, while goaltender Eric Brassard stepped between the posts

for Halifax. The Mooseheads additionally traded overage blue-liner Jesse Lussier to the Chicoutimi Saguenéens, while bringing up 16-year-old rookie Domenico Argento and signing on 17-year-old free agent Sam Hunter as part of their recent roster moves.

"With the young D that we have, if you look at the last few games, our guys have been playing well," Ducharme said. "I like the way our older guys are playing and I like the way our young guys are progressing."

Most recently, the Moose fell 5-4 to the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles in overtime Sunday, and edged the Drummondville Voltigeurs 3-2 in a shootout last Thursday. Prior to that, they posted back-to-back home wins over the Gatineau Olympiques and Blainville-Boisbriand Armada, giving them points in four straight games.

"There are some guys taking more responsibilities on the leadership side," Ducharme said of the team's strong play of late.

That includes Nikolaj Ehlers and Timo Meier, both 18, who have stepped up in the dressing room, and on the ice.

Ehlers leads the team with 58 points in 27 games, while Meier, who was ranked 12th on NHL Central Scouting midterm rankings released Tuesday, is two points behind his teammate, and is tops in goals with 25.

The Mooseheads sit fourth in the Maritime Division and 10th overall in the QMJHL, but Ducharme emphasized, "we never talk about the standings."

"For us, it's one day at a time," he said.



Forward Timo Meier has stepped up his game both on and off the ice, says head coach Dominique Ducharme.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

Quoted

"The league is really close. Parity is right there." Dominique Ducharme

CHL

McDonald named goalie of the week

Halifax native Mason McDonald has been named the country's major junior goaltender for the week ending Jan. 18, the Canadian Hockey League announced Tuesday.

McDonald, 18, also received second star honours Monday from the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League for the week of Jan. 12-18.

The Calgary Flames prospect made 67 saves in two games with the Charlotte-town Islanders, a 2-0 win over the Sherbrooke Phoenix on



Mason McDonald
HOCKEYCANADA.CA

Friday and a 3-2 win over the Quebec Remparts on Sunday, extending his personal victory streak to five straight.

McDonald earned his first shutout of the season and first star honours Friday, stopping 31 shots, and then made 36 saves Sunday.

He holds a 19-14-0-3 record, with a goals-against-average of 2.99 and save percentage of .904, putting him at sixth and third in the Q-league, respectively. **METRO**

NBL Canada

Rainmen making changes to roster

Centre Jason Hannibal is off to Tunisia to play professional ball, while guard Sefton Barrett is sitting while awaiting a potential trade, the Halifax Rainmen announced Tuesday.

"Sefton is a great player that can help a lot of teams," Rainmen owner and president Andre Levingston said in a news release.

"He is extremely talented, (but) he just did not fit with Pep's system and we are fielding inquiries for a possible trade," he said, referring to

Rainmen head coach Josep (Pep) Claros.

The Rainmen are on the road this week, tipping off against the Windsor Express on Wednesday and the Mississauga Power on Thursday. They're back at home Sunday, hosting the Saint John Mill Rats in the Scotiabank Centre at 2 p.m. **METRO**

Women's World Cup

Individual tickets on sale soon

Individual ticket prices for the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup, taking place this

June and July in six cities across the country, including Moncton, were unveiled Tuesday.

The lowest-priced tickets are \$20.15, available in all venues for group-stage matches, according to a news release. Individual tickets cost up to \$80 at Moncton Stadium, for the best Round of 16 seats in the house. They'll go on sale Feb. 26 at www.fifa.com/canada2015.

Stadium passports and half passes are on sale until Feb. 5. The Women's World Cup takes place every four years, featuring the top 24 female soccer teams from across the globe. **METRO**

Australian Open

Raonic, Pospisil into second round

Milos Raonic, of Thornhill, Ont., beat Ilya Marchenko 7-6 (3), 7-6 (3), 6-3 on Tuesday in the first round of the Australian Open. Meanwhile, Vancouver's Vasek Pospisil squeezed out a tense win over Sam Querrey, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 2-6, 2-6, 6-4. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Milos Ranoic GETTY IMAGES

2015 NHL draft

No. 1 ranking still belongs to McDavie

Erie Otters centre Connor McDavie remained in top spot Tuesday as the NHL Central Scouting Bureau released its mid-season rankings for the 2015 NHL Entry Draft.

McDavie has 60 points (21 goals, 39 assists) in 23 games this season. He also helped Canada win a gold

medal at the world junior hockey championship last month.

McDavie was ranked ahead of American forward Jack Eichel (Boston University) in the list of top draft-eligible skaters from North America. Boston College defenceman Noah Hanifin, Kingston Frontenacs forward Lawson Crouse and Otters centre Dylan Strome rounded out the top five.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Rasmus signs with Astros

Outfielder Colby Rasmus has agreed to an \$8-million, one-year contract with the Houston Astros.

The deal was announced Tuesday, a day after Houston dealt centre fielder Dexter Fowler to the Chicago Cubs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Subban gives Habs OT victory

P.K. Subban scored on a power play 4:09 into overtime to lift the Montreal Canadiens to a 2-1 victory over the Nashville Predators on Tuesday night in the last game for both teams before the all-star break.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pats leave trail of destruction en route to the Super Bowl

NFL. New England's high-octane offence looks to topple Seattle's top-ranked defence

Once Tom Brady gets their offence rolling, the New England Patriots are tough to stop.

Some of the NFL's top teams — Denver, Detroit, Cincinnati and Indianapolis — all lost to the AFC champions by at least 22 points.

Now the Patriots are in the Super Bowl against the defending champion Seattle Seahawks, whose four losses were by a total of 22 points.

"This is an incredible defensive unit," Patriots offensive co-ordinator Josh McDaniels said. "They can take the ball away from you. They can get to the quarterback. They can stop the run. It will be an incredible challenge."

The Seahawks, with the NFL's best defence, could stage their second straight Super Bowl blowout, having beaten

Scandal

The New England Patriots are brushing off and even finding humour in questions about whether they used under-inflated footballs in the game that put them in the Super Bowl.

- Tight end Rob Gronkowski tweeted a photo of himself spiking the ball with the words: "WARNING GRONKING MAY CAUSE DEFLATION."
- The NFL's investigation is ongoing.

Bowl on Feb. 1 takes the Patriots to Glendale, Ariz., where they'll try for their fourth NFL title and first in 10 years.

"The coaches prepare us for whatever we need to get the win," said fullback James Develin.

Even if it involves him catching a one-yard touchdown pass, his 11th reception in 37 NFL games, as he did Sunday.

Or offensive tackle Nate Solder being eligible in that game to catch a 16-yard scoring pass, the first reception in his four seasons.

Or having backup offensive lineman Cameron Fleming line up as an eligible receiver nearly 30 times against Indianapolis.

"I certainly think it's been a staple of our team that when we need a play, different guys have stepped up all year long and we've been able to produce points to win games," said special teams captain Matthew Slater. "It's not how you get those points. It's just having them." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



The Patriots' Nate Solder scores against Colts linebacker D'Qwell Jackson during the AFC championship game on Sunday in Foxborough, Mass. The Pats won in a blowout — nothing new to the team. **MATT SLOCUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Ex-Raps coach plans league of his own to rival NBL



Former Raptors coach Butch Carrter says he hopes his new Canadian Basketball League can start play in the fall. **CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Former Toronto Raptors head coach Butch Carter has spent the last year crafting a detailed business plan for a domestic professional basketball league that would help groom Canadian talent while also attracting quality players from abroad.

If the Canadian Basketball League develops according to his plan — 10 Ontario-based teams, followed by six in western Canada — it will thrive by providing affordable entertainment in mid-sized markets while allowing hopeful pros on

Quoted

"To build a brand, to get attendance to games, to get corporate sponsors — that's hard. If he thinks he's going to come with an upstart and try to usurp our fans or our corporate partners, good luck to him."

NBL Canada commissioner Paul Riley

modest salaries to nurture their NBA dreams.

There is a problem, however.

The National Basketball League of Canada already does all of those things, and isn't pre-

pared to cede market share to Carter's proposed circuit.

Still, Carter believes in his business plan and is pressing forward with hopes to start play this autumn. He has already secured a 20-year broad-

cast partnership with CHCH-TV and thinks television exposure plus basketball's growing popularity will lead his league to success where it counts most.

Then there is the issue of the balance sheet.

"We need television that's in high definition and low on the dial," says Carter, who coached the Raptors from 1997 through 2000 and now lives in Toronto. "We're not selling (investors) the concept of a league. We're selling the concept of a profit/loss statement."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

2015 Volkswagen GTI

- **Type.** Three- or five-door sport hatchback
- **Engine.** 2.0-litre turbocharged I4 (210 hp)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual, six-speed DSG automatic
- **Price.** \$29,390 base, \$34,985 as tested

Market position

- A performance model of the VW Golf lineup, just below ultimate Golf sportster, the Golf R.
- Pioneer of the Hot Hatch movement, which proves that a small, practical, and relatively inexpensive car can still offer excellent performance.
- Three trim variants: base 3-door, 3-door Autobahn, 5-door Autobahn.

Points

- 2015 is the first year for the 7th-generation Golf and GTI.
- Longer, lower and wider than the previous GTI. Also more aerodynamic, lighter, and more fuel-efficient.
- Engine is the latest version of VW's 2.0-litre direct-injection turbo, with 201 hp and 258 lb.-ft. of torque.
- Still using GTI's trademark and quirky tartan cloth seat material.



The GTI comes with two or four doors, along with the hatchback.

Notable features

- 18-inch wheels, red brake calipers, flat-bottom sport steering wheel.
- 5.8-inch touch-screen that you don't need to touch (uses proximity sensors).
- Available premium audio system with eight speakers and a subwoofer, designed by Fender.
- Forward-collision warning system. Electronic stability control with sport mode.

Hot hatch still brings the heat



PHOTOS: MIKE GOETZ

Review. Next-gen Golf makes a wonderful base for the new GTI. Bigger, lower, faster and more of everything you want

MIKE
GOETZ
drive@metronews.ca

Volkswagen's GTI might not have been the first hot hatch when it debuted way back in late 1970s. But it was the first to sell in big numbers, which helped popularize the concept of a fun, performance vehicle that was also practical and economical.

The 2015 GTI is the seventh generation of this hot hatch from Germany. It is still wearing plaid or tartan seat material, just like the original, and is still a wonderful idea — but now even

more wonderfully executed.

For one thing, I think it's the best-looking GTI yet, with clean bodylines, and LED-infused headlamp cluster, and 18-inch alloy wheels, which look massive on such a compact vehicle.

As scripted by those big wheels and the aggressive, low-profile tires, the GTI bites into corners and accelerates out of them with precision and competence. And the new variable, electric steering system delivers just the right feel and quickness through a chunky steering wheel, which now features a flat bottom like a race car.

I feared those low-profile tires were going to deliver a punishing ride, but the car is comfortable around town and nice and stable, not twitchy, on the highway.

Although I haven't driven this new GTI on a track, those who have suggest it might be



GTI keeps its traditional plaid or tartan seats, but adds a flat-bottom racing wheel.

a bit soft for at-the-limit driving. But who cares, when it is so perfectly optimized for spirited street driving?

The car also finally gets a selectable sport mode for its stability control system, so you can have fun further down the traction scale before the safety systems kick

in to save your hide.

The new 2.0-litre turbo engine is also a high point, delivering 210 horses and 248 lb.-ft. of torque in a really linear — and fun — manner. There is no turbo lag to speak of, and it revs easily and in a refined manner right to the top. Sounds good, too.

Compare



1 Ford Focus ST
Base price: \$30,664
Hot-hatch version of the Focus offers 252 horses and is very racy.



2 Subaru WRX
Base price: \$31,645
Sporty Sube offers 268 horses but no hatchback option.



3 Mini Cooper
Base price: \$27,862
Retro-cute two-door model packs in 189 horses.

My tester had the six-speed manual transmission, and it shifted as smoothly as any I've tried in a while. A six-speed automatic is optional.

The new Golf platform is bigger and wider, so the GTI predictably offers more room and general comfort. The eight-way power sport seats are massive and supportive.

So what's not to like? Well, prices are climbing on this sports car for the masses. The new GTI starts at \$27,995, and our top-shelf Autobahn trim, with the optional Technology Package, was sitting pretty at \$33,590. But if you're a fan of hot hatches, you will undoubtedly be drawn to the heat of the new GTI.

5
DRIVE

Shift: From hybrids, technology, new vehicles and the environment, to saving money at the pumps

Most cars may soon travel 100 km on less than one litre of fuel

Family cars of the next decade will be the most economical and cleanest-burning mainstream cars ever built, thanks to cutting-edge technologies already being developed and proven, says Autocar magazine. It outlined the top new technologies that will propel the average family car while cutting emissions and returning fuel-efficiency levels better than 0.8 L/100 km. They include advanced flywheels, electric turbochargers, intelligent aerodynamics, variable-ratio compression engines and enclosed wheel wells that return big reductions in aerodynamic drag. These advances come with a cost, warns editor-in-chief Chas Hallett. "Car makers will have to be careful (as) the advance of green technology could prove devastating for companies already surviving on a slim profit margin."

ALL STORIES AND PHOTOS FROM WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM



Cars like the VW Golf improve fuel efficiency through technological advances in the engine and aerodynamics.

Audi's first-ever plug-in hybrid 'perfect' for most commuters, CEO says

Since most people commute less than 50 kilometres a day, Audi CEO Rupert Stadler says the new A3 e-tron Sportback will be "the perfect vehicle for everyday driving."

Of course, that just happens to be the electric-only range of Audi's first-ever plug-in hybrid. If more than 50 km of travel is required, the e-tron's gas-powered engine adds another 880 km of range, for a combined total of 930 between recharging or gasoline fill-ups.

Although the hybrid adds about 335 kilograms to the weight of the regular A3, Stadler noted it is still Audi's most frugal model, using just 1.5 litres of gasoline per 100 kilometres of driving in combined gas-electric mode.

Hydrogen generator might be a new hybrid

A fuel-cell powertrain is the conventional view of how to motivate a car using hydrogen, but the Green Planet Group of Scottsdale, Ariz., says a subsidiary company it owns has found another way, using an on-board hydrogen generator. The developers, AAQIS (Automotive

Air Quality Improvement Systems), also of Scottsdale, claim that when applied to a current gasoline- or diesel-fueled internal combustion engine, its on-board hydrogen generators help reduce emissions by up to 77 per cent and improve fuel efficiency by at least 11 per cent.

The system uses excess electricity generated by the engine to break down water into its base elements (hydrogen and oxygen), then feeds the gas back to the engine.

That will surely spark some debate.

Honda passes motorcycle milestone

Honda, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles, recently produced its 300-millionth bike. The 2015 Goldwing touring model is a machine so sophisticated and advanced that it's doubtful the company's founder, Soichiro Honda, could ever have imagined it when he founded the company in 1946. His first motorcycle, the single-cylinder Model D, or Dream, helped mobilize post-war Japan and establish a reputation for fuel-efficient transportation. Honda is best known today as a builder of cars, notes AutoWeek, "but the company simply wouldn't be where it is now if not for its truly groundbreaking two-wheeled offerings ... its motorcycles and scooters give tens of millions of individuals in developing nations the option of mobility every year."



The first Honda motorcycle was the Model D, or Dream, launched in 1946. Honda has since built more than 300 million motorbikes.

Shift points

- In announcing that its FCV hydrogen-fuel-cell vehicle will launch in Japan by March 2016, and then in the United States and Europe, Honda also joined the public-private partnership H2USA, whose goal is to cost-effectively deliver hydrogen across the United States.



Honda's FCV.

- Car2Go, the car-sharing company owned by Daimler Benz, recently passed the 1-million-member mark. Driving a fleet of 12,000 Smart cars in 60 cities and eight countries, Car2Go members have driven more than 218 million kilometres and taken more than 32 million trips, the company said in a press release.

FedEx fleet tests diesel, hydrogen range extenders

Courier and car-rental companies have long been the leaders in testing the commercial benefits of alternatively powered and fuelled vehicles. Running huge global fleets, they constantly seek ways to cut emissions and fuel costs while improving efficiency and delivery speeds. Case in point is FedEx, which, among other initiatives, is testing a fleet of 20 delivery trucks with hydrogen-fuel-cell range extenders in the United States, with a similar project being undertaken in France. It's also testing electric delivery trucks that use a diesel turbine generator as an electric range extender. The diesel turbine takes the place of the more common gasoline engine found in other extended range plug-ins, such as the Chevrolet Volt.



Shipping companies stand to gain a lot from cutting fuel costs, while the rest of us stand to gain from reduced emissions from their fleets. FedEx is experimenting with everything from electrics to hydrogen fuel-cells.

TOP SIX @ 6 Weeknights at 6 Kat counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

6 Marianas Trench Here's to the Zeroes

5 Pitbull ft Ne-Yo Time of Our Lives

4 Selena Gomez The Heart Wants What it Wants

3 Nick Jonas Jealous

2 Mark Ronson ft Bruno Mars Uptown Funk

1 Taylor Swift Blank Space

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GT models shown



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GT models shown



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SL AWD Premium model shown*

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Platinum model shown*

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Nismo model shown*

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Platinum AWD model shown*

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Detroit auto show. Get set to drop your top as convertibles enjoy a resurgence



Unveiled last week at the Detroit show, the Cascada is Buick's first convertible model in 25 years. CONTRIBUTED

North Americans are ready to let their tops down and feel the wind blow through their hair.

That's the feeling among automakers as they roll out new convertible models at a time when many consumers are gaining confidence in the economy.

At this month's auto show in Detroit, Buick, Alfa Romeo and BMW all revealed glitzy open-air models to capitalize on that newfound confidence.

General Motors unveiled

the Cascada, a Buick version of a stylish Opel convertible from Europe.

Fiat Chrysler is showing off its Alfa Romeo 4C Spider hardtop, which can be converted to open air.

BMW has a refreshed M6 high-performance convertible.

The four-seat Buick is the brand's first convertible in 25 years. It has an insulated soft top that can be opened in 17 seconds with the car travelling at up to 50 km/h.

It also has a turbocharged

200-horsepower engine and a safety system that deploys rollover protection bars behind the rear seats if the car detects a crash is possible.

The Cascada is just what Buick needs to keep its sales momentum going.

It will also help Buick continue to change its once-stodgy image with a sportier, younger vehicle, said spokesman Nick Richards. The average age of a Buick buyer has fallen from 62 to 59 in the past six years.

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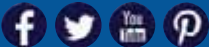
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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across?
Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

Don't be tempted to try something you're not familiar with. With Mercury beginning a retrograde phase mistakes are more likely than not.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You may find it hard getting through to a loved one today but it's no big deal so don't worry about it. Chances are they don't want to hear what you have to say. Don't press it.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

If your sixth sense tells you that someone is not being honest with you then, yes, you should be on your guard. But don't make accusations unless you can back them up with facts.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Something you had high hopes for seems to have come to nothing and you are disappointed. Don't dwell on it because there are other interesting things you could be doing.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

The planets urge you to keep a low profile today because if you call attention to yourself in your usual Leo way someone may decide to make a target of you.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

If you make a move without your partner's permission you may never hear the last of it. Whatever you want to do today be clear with your partner.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

A friend may want you to join them at a social event today but don't force yourself if you don't feel up to it. Cosmic activity in the wellbeing area of your chart means you need rest.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

It may be hard to stay calm if someone in a position of power gives you a hard time but chances are they are winding you up to see how you react.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Someone may say you have no right to occupy a certain position but as far as you're concerned possession is nine-tenths of the law and you intend to stay where you are.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

As mind planet Mercury begins a retrograde phase, the more others try to convince you that something is clearly right the more likely it is to be wrong.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Sometimes it's OK to be suspicious and this is one of those occasions. If your sixth sense tells you to take care then be smart and listen to it.

♓ Pisces

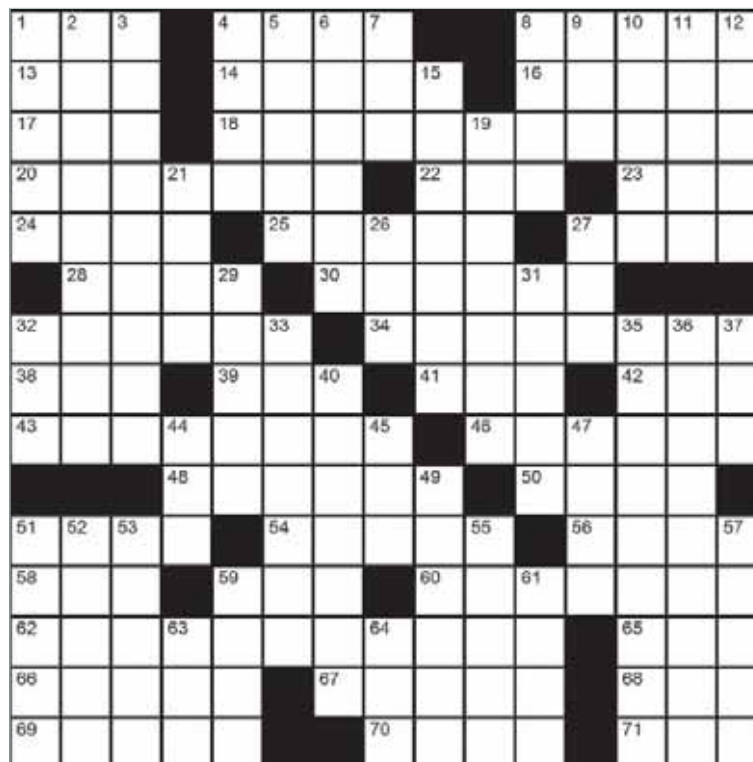
Feb. 20 - March 20

Do you listen to someone who claims to know what is going on or do you listen to that voice inside your head that says they are talking trash? You know the answer to that one already.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

1. Current 007 portrayer ...his initials-sharers
4. Clever ones
8. Ceremony spot
13. McDonald's founder's monogram
14. Major artery
16. ___ Bridge ...It connects Canada (Fort Erie, Ontario) to the USA (Buffalo, New York)
17. "___ questions?"
18. Merchant sort
20. Heart-related
22. Tic-Tac-Toe loser
23. ___ Islands, Indonesia
24. Aroma, variably
25. Cupboard part
27. Formal org.
28. Long-range weapon, commonly
30. Largest private sector union in Canada
32. Lise Watier fare
34. Street-side stand
38. Singleton
39. Debit opps.
41. Mr. Pendleton of "Northwest Passage"
42. Mon. in Montreal
43. Dave ___ Band
46. "You ___ worry." (There, there...)
48. Friendly
50. Rhett's expletive
51. Advocate
54. Victorious: 2 wds.
56. Pronounces
58. 'Bad'-meaning prefix



59. Fad game disc
60. French actress Ms. Paradis
62. "Smalltown Boy" band: 2 wds.
65. Mr. Robbins
66. Particular puzzle
67. Without plasmas, e.g.: 2 wds.
68. AB city

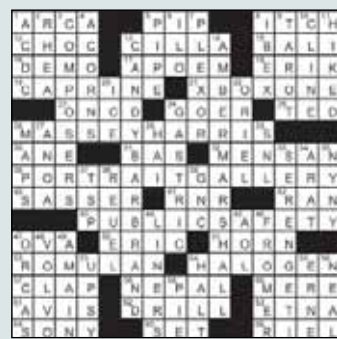
69. "Things ___ what they seem."
70. Get from ___ (Advance slightly)
71. King: Spanish **Down**
1. Harry Potter: ___ Malfoy
2. Hockey, Moose, The Guess Who,

- Maple Syrup, Ottawa...
3. Intensely increase
4. "What ___ thinking?"
5. Bits
6. East Central Alberta town
7. Bering, e.g.
8. Acme

9. Cake brand, with Sara
10. Spanish appetizers
11. Great tennis servers
12. Any "Corner Gas" episode now
15. ___ harp (It sounds in the wind)
19. Moe __, Toronto-

- born jazz musician
21. "Will the ___ able to see me?" ...wondered the patient
26. Blown-up pic
27. Alsatian artist Jean
29. A lot, in Spain
31. Selected
32. Blythe, to Gwyneth
33. Make some stuff for the meal ahead of time
35. Da Vinci or Rembrandt, for example: 2 wds.
36. City TV's neighbourhood Canadian sketch comedy show
37. Mtn. blaster
40. Flute tune by #19-Down: "___ Shepherd Blues"
44. Blood-sucker, when doubled
45. Roosted
47. Alleviate
49. Pattie ___ Reid, Chief Financial Commentator for CTV News
51. Space shadow
52. Less common
53. Spherical map
55. 'The Flying Finn' Mr. Nurmi
57. Sugar __, Canadian comedian
59. Attention-getter
61. US travel watchdog
63. Called-one's occupation
64. Fluffy scarf

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers



Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



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